DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 466 316 PS 030 483

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TITLE	Quit It! A Teacher's Guide on Teasing and Bullying for Use with Students in Grades K-3.
INSTITUTION	Wellesley Coll., MA. Center for Research on Women.; National Education Association, Washington, DC.; Educational Equity Concepts, Inc., New York, NY.
ISBN	ISBN-0-931629-19-5
PUB DATE	1998-00-00
NOTE	128p.; Written with Nan Stein and Nancy Gropper. The NEA ISBN is ISBN-0-8106-1881-8.
AVAILABLE FROM	Publications Department, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481 (Order No. CRW18, $19.95). Fax: 781-283-2504; e-mail: rkropf@wellesley.edu; Web site: http://www.wcwonline.org.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Annotated Bibliographies; *Bullying; Class Activities; *Conflict Resolution; *Elementary School Students; Gender Issues; *Kindergarten Children; Learning Activities; Peer Relationship; Primary Education; Problem Solving; *Teacher Role; Teaching Guides
IDENTIFIERS	*Teasing

ABSTRACT

Noting that in elementary schools teasing and bullying are daily occurrences that negatively affect instruction and that students want adults to become more involved in resolving teasing and bullying, this guide was written to address teachers' concerns and to provide teachers in grades kindergarten through third grade with a proactive, gender-sensitive approach to addressing teasing and bullying. The guide's introductory remarks define important terms, discuss the need for a gender focus, detail the importance of adult involvement at school to stop teasing and bullying, and discuss the importance of a school-wide approach. The guide is then divided into three major themes, arranged sequentially: (1) creating our rules, including activities for writing and revising classroom rules; (2) talking about teasing and bullying, including opportunities for students to identify areas of the classroom and school where they feel safe and unsafe, to talk about emotion expression, and to practice safe ways of responding to teasing and bullying; and (3) exploring courage, in which students define courage as it relates to teasing and bullying, explore ways to stand up to injustice and resist peer pressure, and explore how courage and friendship interconnect. Each theme contains a list of goals and learning objects, background information, sequential lessons with grade-level appropriate activities, problem-solving scenarios, recommended children's literature, and ways to communicate with parents the ideas from the lessons. Within each lesson there is at least one activity for students in either Grades K-1, 1-2, or 2-3. Each activity description includes information on materials or preparation needed and step-by-step instructions. In addition to the themes, three auxiliary sections contain physical games and exercises, problem-solving techniques, and a 96-item annotated bibliography of books for students, audiovisual materials, posters, tools for teachers and parents, and additional resources. The annotations include information on the format, approximate grade level,

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and themes or issues discussed. Three appendices contain 25 references, a history of the project, and information about the contributors. (KB)

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